

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 /076 W

-----113656 191254Z /43

O 191220Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6245

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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USIA FOR IPS, IEU, IAA; DEPT. FOR AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANREW)

SUBJECT: BBC-TV (CHRISTOPHER WAIN, DEFENSE CORRESPONDENT) INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG AT HEATHROW AIRPORT, LONDON, JULY 19, 1977.

QUESTION: MR. AMBASSADOR, WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION TO THE NEWS FROM SALISBURY LAST NIGHT?

YOUNG: WELL, THAT THIS IS ANOTHER ONE OF A LONG HISTORY OF UNPREDICTABLE IAN SMITH REACTIONS WHICH WILL DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING FOR THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE, NOR WILL IT IN ANY WAY SETTLE THE SITUATION.

QUESTION: WHEN YOU SAY IT WAS UNPREDICTABLE, DOES THAT MEAN THAT IT TOOK YOU COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE?

YOUNG: I THINK SO, BUT NOTHING IAN SMITH DOES TAKES ONE COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE BECAUSE YOU HAD TWELVE YEARS
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OF DOING THINGS THAT WERE ESSENTIALLY DESPERATION MOVES, BUYING TIME FOR HIMSELF PERSONALLY, BUT NOT REALLY CONSIDERING THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA BLACK OR WHITE.

QUESTION: NOW HE SAYS THAT WHAT HE IS SEEKING AT THE MOMENT IS A MANDATE TO BE ABLE TO GO IN AND CREATE

AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. DO YOU ACCEPT THAT?

YOUNG: I DON'T ACCEPT AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

QUESTION: NO, DO YOU ACCEPT THAT HE IS RIGHT TO GO FOR A MANDATE?

YOUNG: I DON'T KNOW REALLY ENOUGH ABOUT THE INTERNAL DYNAMICS OF THE RHODESIAN SITUATION TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT ON HIS POLITICAL TACTICS IN TERMS OF WHAT HE NEEDS FROM HIS PARTY OR FROM THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE. THE THING IS THAT HIS MANDATE WILL COME FROM ABOUT 200,000 PEOPLE IN A COUNTRY OF 7 MILLION, AND THAT'S NOT A MANDATE WHICH CAN PRODUCE PEACE OR JUSTICE.

QUESTION: SO IN THE BROAD TERM THEN, WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE THE RESULT OF AN ELECTION WITHIN RHODESIA AT THE MOMENT?

YOUNG: I'M AFRAID THAT IT WILL LEAD TO AN ESCALATION ON ALL SIDES IN THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS. I THINK THERE HAS BEEN SOME RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF THE NATIONALISTS, THE BLACK NATIONALISTS. YOU'VE NOT HAD VIOLENCE IN THE CITIES, NOT BECAUSE THE NATIONALIST FORCES ARE NOT MOVING ALL ACROSS RHODESIA, BUT BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN A MEASURE OF RESTRAINT, I THINK IN PART PRODUCED BY HOPE THAT THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND THE NATIONALIST LEADERS HAVE HAD IN THE POSSIBILITIES OF A NEGOTIATED
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SETTLEMENT. IN A SENSE THIS MAY PRODUCE A DESPERATE ESCALATION ON THE PART OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AT A TIME WHEN I THINK CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT HAVE MOVED US IN A MUCH MORE POSITIVE DIRECTION.

QUESTION: DO YOU REGARD THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE THEN AS BEING NOW VIRTUALLY DEAD?

YOUNG: NO, I DON'T. I STILL VIEW THIS AS THE ONLY REAL HOPE FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. I MEAN THE KIND OF THING THAT IAN SMITH IS TALKING ABOUT IS NOT GOING TO SOLVE ANYTHING FOR ANYBODY. IT CAN ONLY MAKE MATTERS WORSE. THAT IF THERE IS TO BE SOME REASON AND SANITY BROUGHT TO THE SITUATION IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO HAVE TO COME FROM FORCES OTHER THAN IAN SMITH, AND THAT MIGHT INCLUDE, AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND POSSIBLY EVEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA.

ONE FINAL QUESTION, MR. AMBASSADOR: IF YOU'RE RIGHT, IF

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THERE IS A LARGE SCALE ESCALATION OVER THE NEXT THIRTY
DAYS, WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE THE RESULT OF THAT IN
RHODESIA?

YOUNG: MORE PEOPLE LEAVING AND MORE DISILLUSIONMENT
AND DISCOURAGEMENT, AND FROM WHAT I
GATHER YOU HAD THIS TWELVE YEAR STRUGGLE WITHOUT A
GREAT DEAL OF HATRED OF BLACKS FOR WHITES, AND THAT'S
WHAT MAKES THE POSSIBILITY OF A MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY
STILL PRESENT. I THINK THE FURTHER IAN SMITH GOES AND
THE MORE HE ESCALATES HIS OWN POLITICAL SHENANIGANS
AND THE MORE THE MILITARY CONFRONTATION ESCALATES THE
MORE DIFFICULT IT'S GOING TO BE TO MAINTAIN A MULTI-
RACIAL SOCIETY. I THINK A MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY IN
RHODESIA AND AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE IS REALLY
IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF AFRICA. IT'S PROBABLY LEAST
IMPORTANT FOR THE WEST, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE
CONTINUED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF STABLE STATES IN
ZAMBIA, MOZAMBIQUE, BOTSWANA AND THE SOLUTION TO THIS
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PROBLEM IS IN MANY RESPECTS A KEY TO THE FUTURE OF ALL
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, SO I DON'T THINK THAT WE CAN ABANDON
OUR RATIONAL ATTEMPTS TO PRODUCE CHANGE TOWARD A MULTI-
RACIAL SOCIETY, WHICH IS A MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY WHICH IS
INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS A GOVERNMENT GENUINELY
REPRESENTING ALL OF THE PEOPLE. I THINK ANYTHING
SHORT OF THAT IS GOING TO CONTINUE CIVIL STRIFE AND
CONTINUE TO PRODUCE DIFFICULTIES THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.

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